

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Even though the Corporation is able to meet its normal working expenses, it is incurring a loss on account of the financing cost on its borrowings made during the construction phase and on account of depreciation costs.

(c) Two new trains namely, Jaipur-Ernakulam and Pune-Ernakulam are proposed to be introduced shortly. The rake composition of existing trains have also been increased from 18 coaches to 21 coaches.

(d) The losses are primarily on account of the debt servicing liability of the Corporation. The passenger fare structure of Konkan Railway is the same as adopted for Indian Railways with a distance inflation of 40%.

Disappearance of water pipelines in Central Railway

1489. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had set up any Enquiry Committee to investigate disappearance of a large number of water pipelines at the Central Railway's Thakurli power house;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has submitted any report and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) if not, by when the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The case was investigated by Vigilance Department of Central Railway. It has been found that the estimated quantity of 2389 Mts. of pipeline was in order and the reported shortage of 928.09 Mts. of pipeline was due to misappropriation. Various procedural irregularities in the handling of the sales contract was noticed for which disciplinary action is proposed to be taken against the officials found responsible.

(d) Does not arise.